

2017 Weed Identification Series



Barnyardgrass

Barnyardgrass is a summer annual grass with flat stems and no visible ligule or auricle. Seeds start germinating in May producing large, competitive plants.

Leaf Blades: Hairless, $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{3}{4}$ in wide that can exceed 12 inches in length when mature. Blade has rough margins and a distinct mid vein.

Leaf Sheath: Hairless, lacking a ligule (membrane/hairs found where the leaf blade joins the stem) and auricle (tissue growing from the sheath that clasps the stem).

Stems: Flat, typically 1-3 ft long.

Seed Head: Central stem with several spreading to erect, branches with clusters of spikelets. Often purple tinged, florets can have long, short or no awns (hairs from tips of flowers). Flowering occurs July through September.

Biology: This annual grass is one of the most common weeds in the world. In WI it is problematic in wet years/areas.

Similar Plants: Barnyardgrass is often misidentified as either johnsongrass or fall panicum. Both of these grasses have a distinct ligule and round stems, whereas barnyardgrass lacks a ligule and has flattened stems.